



# St. John Chrysostom Melkite Catholic Church



A Parish Community of the Eparchy of Newton

Bulletin for Sunday, July 16, 2023– Tone 6

Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

Commemoration of the Holy and Illustrious Woman, the Great-martyr Euphemia

الاحد 16 تموز 2023

أحد اباء المجامع السية الأولى

10:00 AM – ORTHROS

10:30 AM – SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY

Followed by Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Cultural Center.

**COMMUNION:** If you are unable to make Divine Liturgy on Sunday due to health reasons, and you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist, please e-mail [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

### THIS WEEK'S DIVINE LITURGY COMMEMORATIONS

#### REPOSE IN THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM

+Rt. Rev. Romanos V. Russo, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Mary Grace Ritchey (Birmingham, AL), Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

+Feras Awad (Birmingham, AL), Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

#### HEALTH & SALVATION

Samira Jajeh, Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Rickey Shahid, Jr., Requested by the St. John Chrysostom Parish Community

Rouviette Hanna, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna and family

Aldair & Stephanie Delibrado, Requested by Deacon Elie Hanna

Victims of Violence in Palestine

Victims of Domestic Violence

Peace in the World, especially in the U.S., Middle East, Holy Land, Ukraine



### ----- PARISH LIFE UPDATE -----

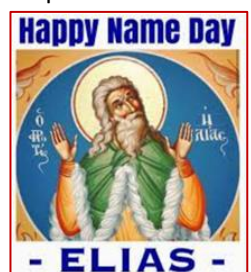
**CULTURAL CENTER RENTAL REQUIREMENTS:** All cultural center rental requests, no matter how large or small or by parishioners or non-members, should be directed to our Cultural Center manager, **Jerome Hagley**. Diocesan requirements include a signed agreement (contract) and the purchase of insurance, as well as permission from the administrators regarding the use of the center for that date and event. No event should be scheduled prior to these steps occurring. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



**PLANNING FOR FUTURE LITURGIES:** With Fr. George's time with us coming to an end shortly, we will be having visiting priests coming to Atlanta from time-to-time. We will be sending out a survey regarding your preference for liturgy day/time, as they may not be able to make our normal Sunday time of 10:30am. Be on the lookout and let us know your thoughts!

**DISCUSSION DELAYED:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will delay (again) the discussion for the book, Great Catholic Parishes. 😞 An email will be sent to help you prepare. Please review it in advance and thank you for your patience.

**HAPPY NAME DAY FOR ELIJAH, ELIAS, ELIE, AND ELI:** A name day celebrates the day particularly associated with a given name, traditionally the name of a saint. The custom developed during the Middle Ages and has been widely observed in both Orthodox and Catholic traditions. Is your name Elias, Elie, Elijah, or Eli? Your name day is coming up this Thursday, as the Prophet Elijah (Elias) has the name day of July 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be celebrated on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, including the Blessing of Cars. Name days can be celebrated with a coffee hour luncheon, a cake, and/or a commemoration. Please let one of the deacons know if you ever want your name day to be celebrated.



----- A WARM WELCOME TO ALL -----

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please register on FlockNote to receive our communications and join us in the Cultural Center behind the Church to introduce yourself.

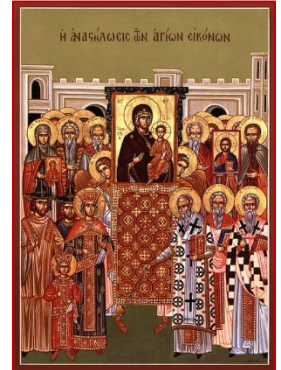
**INTERESTED-IN-BECOMING-CATECHUMENS/PARISHIONERS?** Please send email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) or leave your contact information in the guest book in Narthex. We ask for an ongoing attendance period before requesting to be a member.

**COMMUNION:** If you are unable to make Divine Liturgy on Sunday due to health reasons, and you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist, please e-mail [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) by Saturday so that clergy may visit you with Communion.

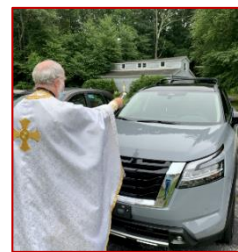
----- UPCOMING AND IMPORTANT EVENTS -----

**SUN, JULY 16 – SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST SIX ECUMENICAL COUNCILS**

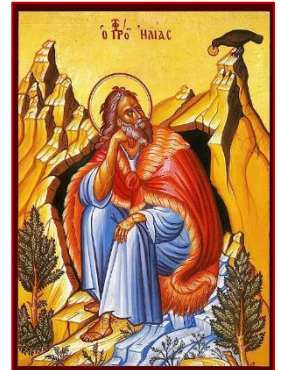
An **ecumenical council**, also called general council, is a meeting of bishops and other church authorities to consider and rule on questions of Christian doctrine, administration, discipline, and other matters in which those entitled to vote are convoked from the whole world (*oikoumene*) and which secures the approbation of the whole Church. The word "ecumenical" derives from the Late Latin *oecumenicus* "general, universal", from Greek *oikoumenikos* "from the whole world", from *he oikoumene ge* "the inhabited world" (as known to the ancient Greeks); the Greeks and their neighbors, considered as developed human society (as opposed to barbarian lands); in later use "the Roman world" and in the Christian sense in ecclesiastical Greek, from *oikoumenos*, present passive participle of *oikein* ("inhabit"), from *oikos* ("house, habitation"). The first seven ecumenical councils, recognised by both the eastern and western denominations comprising Chalcedonian Christianity, were convoked by Roman Emperors, who also enforced the decisions of those councils within the state church of the Roman Empire.



**SUN, JULY 23 – EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



**BLESSING OF CARS for feast of the Prophet St. Elias July 20<sup>th</sup>:** Since most Eastern Churches either use Greek as their liturgical language or translated their liturgies from the Greek, "Elias" is the form of the prophet's (Elijah's) name used among most members of the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Churches which follow the Byzantine Rite. The feast day of Saint Elias falls on July 20<sup>th</sup> of the liturgical calendar. This day is a major holiday in Lebanon and is one of a handful of holidays there whose celebration is accompanied by a launching of fireworks by the general public. The full name of St. Elias in Lebanon translates to St. Elias the Living because it is believed that he did not die but rode his fiery chariot to heaven. The reference to the fiery chariot is likely why the Lebanese celebrate this holiday with fireworks. Elias is also commemorated, together with all the righteous persons of the Old Testament, on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (the Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord). This is the name day for those with the name of Elijah, Elias, Elie, Eli, etc.



**COFFEE HOUR:** Farewell Luncheon for Fr. George

**SUN, JULY 30 – NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – WALKING ON WATER**

**AUG 1 – 14 – DORMITION FAST**

**SUN, AUG 6 – THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

**DATE TBD - COFFEE HOUR DISCUSSION:** Great Catholic Parishes – Shared Leadership Discussion

----- MELKITE MUSIC 101 -----

**What to Learn the Byzantine chant?** This three-week series will cover some of the basics of Melkite music and give participants the tools to continue learning in their own communities. Each session will last two hours. Participants will practice music, ask questions and learn where to find essential materials and resources. Each session runs from 6-8pm (CDT) with the option of 'attending' Vespers virtually at 5:30pm.

- July 20...Session 1: Intro and Definitions, How to learn Melkite Music, Divine Liturgy Music, Learning the Eight Tones (part 1: Tones 7, 8, 1 and 2)
- July 27...Session 2: Learning the Eight Tones (part 2: Tones 3, 4, 5 and 6), Praying Vespers
- August 3...Session 3: Praying Orthros, Feast Day Music



Those interested should email Abouna Justin at [protosouth@stgeorgebham.com](mailto:protosouth@stgeorgebham.com) with "MELKITE MUSIC" in the subject line of the email. He will send out a Zoom link and any further details.

----- STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

God entrust us with the gifts of the earth and of our church. Through Stewardship, we return it to Him. It is a way of life!

**TREASURE:** [CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#), or scan QR Code or send an email to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) to set up ACH donations. All checks should be made to "St. John Chrysostom Melkite Church" except for diocesan collections, which are to be made out to "Diocese of Newton." We receive Zelle donations at [donate@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:donate@stjohnmelkite.org). Identify donation purpose of donations in memo field. We appreciate those who have made the ongoing commitment to St. John Chrysostom. Please consider a regular giving plan if not already on one.

**FINANCIALS: (MONTHLY - JUNE 2023 and JAN-JUNE 2023):**

*Total Income:	\$8,719.56 (O.C. \$7,317)	\$77,753 (O.C. \$54,443)
**Expenses:	<u>\$33,211</u>	<u>\$151,340</u>
Net Income:	<b>(\$24,492)</b>	<b>(\$73,729)</b>

\* O.C. – Ordinary Collections  
 \*\* JUNE RENOVATION EXPENSES: \$20,000

**CASH DONATIONS:** We kindly request that those who make cash donations do so in an envelope with your name on it, including what you would like the donation to go for (e.g., Weekly Donation), so that we can register your giving using our parish accounting software. Thank you for your consideration!

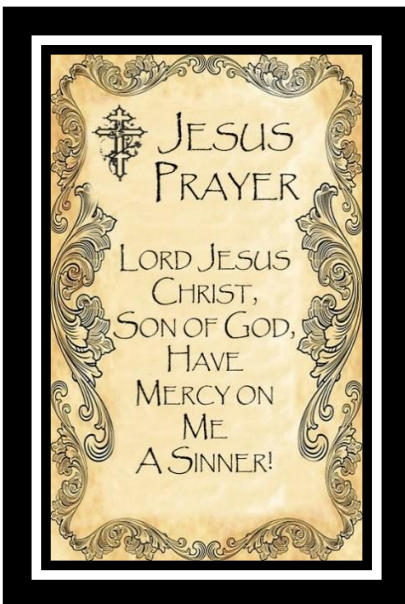
----- INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING? -----

Advertising in the church bulletin (whether delivered in Print or via FlockNote) can be a great revenue source for the church, as well as an opportunity for you to highlight your business to all parishioners. We can include a link for your business website via FlockNote, so that parishioners can directly purchase your products and/or inquire about your services. Is this something you would be interested in participating in? If so, please e-mail the deacons at [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org). If there is enough interest, the option will be provided to all members for their businesses. Thanks for your consideration.



----- PRAYER IS A WAY OF LIFE -----

**COMMEMORATIONS:** Send a commemoration request to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) for a family member, friend, or colleague such as: (a) Repose of their soul, (b) health and wellness, (c) commemorate a special event in their life.



**Please keep in your prayers...**

- |                    |               |                 |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Fr. John Azar      | Fr. Tom Flynn | Fr. Basil Samra |
| Butrus Jajeh       | Samira Jajeh  | Serene Kadadu   |
| Munera Al-zaraaneh | Tony Tanory   | Rouviette Hanna |
| Ricky Shahid, Jr.  |               |                 |

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Those purchasing a new home                   | The Wandering Sheep of this parish |
| Those moving this summer                      | Palestine, Syria, and Turkey       |
| Those starting studies this Fall              | Victims of natural disasters       |
| Those taking care of parents and grandparents |                                    |

*May the Divine Physician of our souls and bodies extend His healing hand over His servants and handmaids.*

For those in need of prayer and to keep us up to date on everyone's condition,

----- TIME AND TALENT -----

**Volunteers Needed** to help lead various ministries.  
**Liturgical Participation:** Please consider joining the Choir, being a reader (see Eric Hansen), becoming an usher (see Joe M. or Jerome H.) or an altar server (contact Dcn. Elie).

----- MINISTRY LEADERS -----

- Adult Education** – Greg Pharo
- Altar Servers** – Deacon Elie Hanna
- Choir** – Sohel Elias
- Children Education** – Viola Ghawi, Tyra Nuar
- Cultural Center Rental** – Jerome Hagley
- Friday Fellowship** – Rita Karroum, Vera Madanat
- Gift Shop** – Joseph Manguno, Patty Pharo
- Good Samaritan Society** – Suely Elias, Marie Hansen
- Ladies Society** – Susie Hagley, Lina Muhanna (co-presidents)
- Men's Club** -- OPEN
- Publican Society** – OPEN
- Readers** – Eric Hansen
- Sunshine Committee** – Matilda Ghawi
- Ushers** – Jerome Hagley, Robert Ghawi, Joseph Manguno

## July Birthdays & Anniversaries



Note: The information below is from our Parishioner database. We apologize IN ADVANCE for anyone who is missing or any information which is mistaken. Please send corrections to [contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org) so we can update our database.

### BIRTHDAYS

Nabil Muhanna      Suely Elias  
Arige Atalla        Anthony Rozier  
Adam Ghawi

### ANNIVERSARIES

Mrs. Rouviette Hanna  
Dr. Nabil & Mrs. Lina Muhanna  
Dcn. Sami & Mrs. Lourice Jajeh  
Mr. & Mrs Kamil & Rita Karroum  
Mr. & Mrs Bushra & Sinan Haddad  
Mr. & Mrs. Rani & Viola Ghawi  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Christina Malouf

1428 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, Office:  
(404) 373-9522, Fax: (404) 373-9755, Email:

[contact@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:contact@stjohnmelkite.org)

Web: [stjohnmelkite.org](http://stjohnmelkite.org) • FB: [facebook.com/StJohnMelkite](https://facebook.com/StJohnMelkite) •

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite](https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnMelkite)

Rev. Deacon Sami Jajeh & Rev. Deacon Elie Hanna,  
Parish Administrators

Rt. Rev. Archimandrite John Azar, Pastor Emeritus

Rev. George Gage, Celebrant

Rev. Dr. Thomas Flynn, Retired

Parish Advisory Council Chairperson - Deacon Elie Hanna -

[deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconelie@stjohnmelkite.org)

Finance Council Chairperson - Deacon Sami Jajeh -

[deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org](mailto:deaconsami@stjohnmelkite.org)

Cultural Center Manager - Jerome Hagley -

[jerome.hagley@gmail.com](mailto:jerome.hagley@gmail.com)

### **Parish Church Year Theme**

(Liturgical Year – Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2023):

*"The God of heaven will give us success. We His servants  
will start rebuilding."* (Nehemiah 2:20)

﴿٢٠﴾ إِنَّ إِلَهَ السَّمَاءِ يُعْطِينَا النِّجَاحَ وَنَحْنُ عَبِيدُهُ نَقُومُ وَنَبْنِي. " (نحميا

### **--- VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR ---**

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-479-5910.

### **--- The Importance of Councils ---**

The council reflects the image of the Church as a community. The council is a true image of the Church when it is imbued with and dependent on the grace of the Holy Spirit. Councils function on every level of Church life in the East. In the local Church, the eparchy, the primary council is the presbyterate which shares in the sacramental ministry of the bishop. Community councils involving deacons and the laity administer the temporal concerns of the eparchy and its parishes. Wider synods govern the life of patriarchates or metropolias. With the establishment of Christianity as the dominant faith in the Roman Empire, the ecumenical council was created.

#### **The Problem of Chalcedon**

The Council of Chalcedon dealt with both theological and political issues. The main theological issue was how to express the mystery of Christ's incarnation in the face of Monophysitism taught by Eutyches, an influential priest in Constantinople and a disciple of St Cyril of Alexandria. At its second session the Council adopted the concept "two natures in one Person," employed by Pope St. Leo the Great in a letter to Flavian, the archbishop of Constantinople. When the letter was read to the bishops, they replied, "This is the faith of the fathers! This is the faith of the Apostles! So we all believe! Thus the Orthodox believe! Anathema to him who does not thus believe! Peter has spoken thus through Leo!" Leo's expression has been used in the Greek and Latin Churches ever since. Unfortunately, this term was opposite of that used by St Cyril of Alexandria a generation earlier, describing the "one nature of the incarnate Word."

The theological problem was made even more complex by the political, however. The first Council at Nicaea has decreed that the foremost local Churches in the Empire would be Rome, Alexandria and Antioch. At Chalcedon the 500+ bishops present recalled that "the fathers [at an earlier council in Constantinople] rightly accorded prerogatives to the see of older Rome, since that is an imperial city; and moved by the same purpose the 150 most devout bishops apportioned equal prerogatives to the most holy see of New Rome, reasonably judging that the city which is honored by the imperial power and senate and enjoying privileges equaling older imperial Rome, should also be elevated to her level in ecclesiastical affairs and take second place after her." Thus Constantinople (New Rome) was accorded the second place in the hierarchy previously held by Alexandria. The Pope of Rome, St Leo the Great, at first objected to this realignment as contrary to the canons of Nicaea I but he later relented and it became law in the empire. The Churches of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem would be the foremost local Churches in the empire. This group of five sees would be known as the pentarchy and their ranking is recognized in the Byzantine Churches to this day.

Thus not only was Roman theological terminology deemed more precise than Alexandrian, the Byzantine see was given precedence over that of Alexandria. The Alexandrian bishops at first delayed and finally refused to accept the decrees of this council and the Egyptian Church was divided into Chalcedonian and non-Chalcedonian parts. Those who accepted Chalcedon were called "Melkites" or Royalists; those who did not called themselves "Copts," i.e. true Egyptians. The Copts would later be joined by the Armenians and many Syriac-speaking members of the Patriarchate of Antioch. Along with their daughter Churches in Ethiopia and India, the non-Chalcedonians are today known as the "Oriental Orthodox Churches."